

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) are set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 8, 12, 16, and 20-23 and ADD new claims 24-39 in accordance with the following:

1. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user; and

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section.

2. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 further comprising:
drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;
writing means for writing on to said medium encrypted software data obtained from the
said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and
a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

3. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 1 wherein said error
processing means is equipped with an error check code generation section for generating new
error check codes corresponding to the said writable medium.

4. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-
encrypted software data received via an input route including a writable medium, a non-writable
medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges
according to the usage of the software, the software reproduction apparatus comprising:
input switchover means for selecting an input route;
software management means for decoding encrypted software data using key data from
an external source and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software
data;
data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software
management means to output data offered to the user; and
output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover
means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, for receiving the
non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-
encrypted software data to said data conversion means, and for outputting the encrypted
software data to a writable medium.

5. (ORIGINAL) The software reproduction apparatus of claim 4 further comprising:
error management means equipped with an error check code generation section for
generating new error check codes corresponding to the writable medium.

6. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

input switchover means for selecting an input route according to the type of medium or communications;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data for the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data for said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing, on said medium, encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to the output of the encrypted software data to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

7. (ORIGINAL) A software reproduction apparatus for reproducing encrypted or non-encrypted software data received via an input route including a storage medium and by communications with a remote source, and for executing monetary charges according to the usage of the software comprising:

signal processing means for performing unique signal processing based on the input route of the software data; and

error processing means for conducting error processing based on the input route;

input switchover means for selecting an input route, said input switchover means comprising:

first switchover means for outputting encrypted and non-encrypted software data to said signal processing means and;

second switchover means for receiving the output from said signal processing means and directing the output of said signal processing means to said error processing means;

software management means for decoding encrypted software data and for managing monetary charges according to the usage of the software data;

data conversion means for converting decoded data outputted from said software management means to output data offered to the user;

output route switchover means for receiving encrypted data from said input switchover means and outputting the encrypted data to said software management means, and for receiving non-encrypted software data from said input switchover means and outputting the non-encrypted software data to said data conversion section;

drive apparatus for installing a writable medium;

writing means for writing on said writable medium encrypted software data obtained from the said input route prior to its output to said software management means; and

a means for reading encrypted software data written on said medium.

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8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;

switch means for switching a one-way connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 8, further comprising:

deciphering means

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

10. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 9, further comprising:

billing managing means

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

11. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver and digital information read by said drive device into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch switching a one-way connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter; and

an output device, connected to said converter, ~~visibly and audibly~~ outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

13. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 12, further comprising:

a deciphering device

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 13, further comprising:

a billing manager

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

15. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 12, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

16. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;
a storage medium storing digital data;
a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;
a switch having

 a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

 a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data, and

 a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

 an output device, connected to the converter, ~~visibly and audibly~~ outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

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17. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

 a deciphering device which,

 when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, deciphers the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

 when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

18. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, further comprising:

 a billing manager managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

19. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The apparatus according to claim 16, wherein the converter comprises:

an extender extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

20. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing digital data;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a decoder decoding encrypted digital data;

a switch having

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a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection without passing through the decoder so that the converter converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder as a one-way connection so that the encrypted digital data is decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data is converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, ~~visibly and audibly~~ outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data; and

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium,

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, ~~visibly and audibly~~ outputs the at least one of visible and audible data.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting digital data provided by a communication path to a converter as a one-way connection that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter as a one-way connection so that the converter converts the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium as a one-way connection so that the digital data provided via the communication path is stored in the storage medium; and

outputting means, connected to the converter, ~~visibly and audibly~~ outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus comprising:
digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via a communication medium;
drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;
information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;
switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means;
selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources; and
outputting means, connected to said information converting means, visibly and audibly outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

24. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:
a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;
digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;
drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;
information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;
switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting at least one of visible and audible data.

25. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 24, further comprising:
deciphering means

for deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiving means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting, and

for deciphering digital information read by said drive means when the digital information is ciphered, and for providing the deciphered digital information to said information converting means for converting.

26. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 25, further comprising:
billing managing means

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiving means, and

for managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive means.

27. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 24, wherein said information converting means comprises:

extension means

for extending digital information received by said digital information receiving means when said digital information is compressed, and

for extending said digital information read by said drive means when said digital information is compressed.

28. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;

a digital information receiver receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;

a drive device reading digital information from, and writing information to, a storage medium;

a converter converting digital information received by said digital information receiver and digital information read by said drive device into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch switching a connection between said digital information receiver and said converter, between said digital information receiver and said drive device, and between said drive device and said converter; and

an output device, connected to said converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

29. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, further comprising:

a deciphering device

deciphering digital information received by said digital information receiver when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter, and

deciphering digital information read by said drive device when the digital information is ciphered, and providing the deciphered digital information to said converter.

30. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 29, further comprising:

a billing manager

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information received by said digital information receiver, and

managing billing based on a utilization of the digital information read by said drive device.

31. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 28, wherein said converter comprises:

an extender

extending digital information received by said digital information receiver when said digital information is compressed, and

extending said digital information read by said drive device when said digital information is compressed.

32. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication path providing external digital data in one direction;

a storage medium storing digital data;

a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a switch having

 a first switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the converter, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

 a second switch position which connects digital data read from the storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data, and

 a third switch position which connects digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium; and

 an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

33. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

 a deciphering device which,

 when the switch is in the first switch position and the digital data provided by the communication path is ciphered, deciphers the digital data before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data, and,

 when the switch is in the second position and the digital data read from the storage medium is ciphered, deciphers the digital data read from the storage medium before the digital data is provided to the converter, so that the converter receives and converts the deciphered digital data.

34. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, further comprising:

 a billing manager managing billing based on a utilization of digital data provided by the communication path, and managing billing based on a utilization of digital data read from the storage medium.

35. (NEW) The apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the converter comprises:
an extender extending digital data provided by the communication path when the digital data is compressed, and extending digital data read from the storage medium when digital data is compressed.

36. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:
a communication path providing external digital data in one direction;
a storage medium storing digital data;
a converter converting digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;
a decoder decoding encrypted digital data;
a switch having

a first switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a second switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is provided by the communication path, connects the digital information provided by the communication path to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data,

a third switch configuration which, when non-encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter without passing through the decoder, the converter converting the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data,

a fourth switch configuration which, when encrypted digital data is read from the storage medium, connects the digital data read from the storage medium to the converter and the decoder, the encrypted digital data being decoded by the decoder and then the decoded digital data being converted by the converter into at least one of visible and audible data, and

a fifth switch configuration which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium; and

an output device, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

37. (NEW) A switch comprising:

a first switch position which connects external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

a second switch position which connects digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data; and

a third switch position which connects the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium,

wherein an output device, connected to the converter, outputs the at least one of visible and audible data.

38. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

first means for connecting external digital data provided by a communication path in one direction to a converter that converts the digital data into at least one of visible and audible data;

second means for connecting digital data read from a storage medium to the converter, the converter converting the digital data read from the storage medium into at least one of visible and audible data;

third means for connecting the digital data provided by the communication path to the storage medium, the digital data provided via the communication path being stored in the storage medium; and

outputting means, connected to the converter, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.

39. (NEW) An apparatus comprising:

a communication medium providing external digital information in one direction;

digital information receiving means for receiving digital information provided via the communication medium;

drive means for reading digital information from, and writing digital information to, a storage medium;

information converting means for converting digital information received by said digital information receiving means and digital information read by said drive means into at least one of visible and audible data;

switch means for switching a connection between one of said digital information receiving means and said information converting means, said digital information receiving means and said drive means, and said drive means and said information converting means;

selecting means for selecting one of said digital information received by said digital information receiving means and said digital information read by said drive means and inputting the selected digital information to said information converting means to obtain at least one of visible and audible data based on the selected digital information, which is received from different types of digital information sources; and

outputting means, connected to said information converting means, outputting the at least one of visible and audible data.
